

The Character Quarterly

Commissioning Week 2000

Volume 4, Number 4

United States Naval Academy



Leadership: A Life-Building Task.....	2
Making Diversity a Reality.....	3
Some Advice to Take With You As You Go.....	4
A Firstie Farewell.....	5
Codes, Concepts, and Pastries: The 2000 Federal Service Academy Honor Conference.....	6
The Meaning of the Honor Concept.....	7
Developing Dignity and Respect.....	8

*“Character is what
you know you are,
not what others
think you have.”*

-- Henry Clay --



Leadership: A Life-Building Task

by MIDN Frank Magallon, '01

What makes a great leader? More importantly, where can you find one? Is he among the varsity team captains? Is he one of the dozens of Brigade Strippers? Is she perhaps a midshipman in ranks? I would venture to say the answer to every one of those questions is a resounding "Yes!" There are great leaders throughout the Academy, however the truly remarkable ones are a little more rare. What do I mean by remarkable? It is a widely acknowledged fact that the most difficult type of leadership is peer leadership. It is a unique person who can be revered and admired by his classmates.

The RADM Draper L. Kauffman Leadership Excellence Award was specifically established to honor such individuals. Among the hundreds of midshipmen in each graduating class, one person is selected by his or her peers in recognition of the quality work and leadership they have displayed day in and day out since that distant memory known as I-Day. This year the Class of 2000 has bestowed this honor upon Midshipman First Class Anthony Angelone.

Anthony Angelone has certainly set the tone as one of the Brigade's most outstanding midshipmen. I can personally attest to this. Last year, I would pass Anthony every morning as he taped off his uniform while skimming through the morning paper at 0530. He was up and squared away an hour and a half before the rest of the Brigade even woke up! So when



*MIDN I/C Anthony Angelone receives
the RADM Draper L. Kauffman Leadership Excellence Award
from VADM Ryan, Superintendent of the U.S. Naval Academy*

I received the opportunity to interview him, I knew I'd be in for some good stuff.

I sat down with Anthony one day after school and I asked what he saw as the basis of leadership. His answer was plain and simple: character. "The Academy is a great place to build character. Everyday you're presented with a wide variety of activities that make you think. There's a chance for you to improve things by making you wonder how you could do it differently. What you have to do is incorporate this into how you think because it keeps the institution going in a positive direction. Honor is also a big part of it. It dictates how you do things and how you see things, without it, you do your men a disservice."

Anthony went on to describe what he saw as the biggest obstacle to being a good leader: "The toughest thing is trying to motivate a group of people with a dozen distractions to accomplish a goal. Whether it's the big things or the small things like drill, you have

to have mission accomplishment. Everything we do here builds to a climax: becoming a good officer. Everyone came to the Academy because it was different and unique. The good times are incidental; you should come here expecting the rigors of a military institution. You have to be ready to be tested everyday. Within the box, there are plenty of opportunities to be human. You just have to keep focused on that goal. Self-sacrifice is what it's about. Without keeping the ultimate goal in mind, you build a foundation of weakness that will inherently collapse in upon itself. So what it comes down to is not going with the flow and not taking a mile when you're given an inch. Being a good officer is a life building task, and it all starts here."

I believe the other 950 firsties in the Class of 2000 have agreed that Anthony Angelone has already started down the right path. Congratulations Anthony!

"Everyone came to the Academy because it was different and unique. The good times are incidental; you should come here expecting the rigors of a military institution. You have to be ready to be tested everyday."

- Anthony Angelone -

Making Diversity A Reality

by MIDN Hannah Martin, '02

As part of "Ethics Across the Curriculum" and the course for third class midshipmen on "Ethics and Moral Reasoning for the Naval Leader", the Character Development Division invited Mr. Billy Johnston to speak to the youngster Class of 2002 on April 25th. A nationally known expert on identifying and investigating hate crimes, Billy Johnston retired from the Boston Police Department with the rank of Deputy Superintendent in 1997 after 31 years of service. Since 1992, he has spoken to students, educators, and community groups about tolerance, prejudice, hate crimes, diversity, and respect for human dignity.

Billy Johnston's message and experiences have received extensive notoriety within his profession as well as in national circles. During his distinguished career he has received numerous police and civic awards too great in number to detail with merit. He has received wide coverage in the national media including appearances on 48 Hours, David Brinkley's Washington Week In Review, and Dateline. Perhaps the culmination of his career occurred in November 1997, when Mr. Johnston was the lead-off speaker for President Clinton's White House Conference On Hate Crimes. The message he offered to the Class of 2002 is well worth sharing.

"HATERS ARE COWARDS." With these words Mr. Johnston described his experiences as a member of Boston's Tactical Patrol Force during the 1960s and 70s. For two and a half years he posed as a police decoy, blending into society as a probable victim in an effort to coax criminals to commit crimes against him, thereby permitting his fellow officers to arrest

the perpetrators. At one point he was badly beaten and robbed while outside a gay bar in downtown Boston. During his time as a decoy, Billy Johnston discovered two important things. First, he learned the harsh reality of what it was like to be a victim. Second, he realized that some individuals would injure, assault, or even kill people simply because they perceived them as being different. These experiences "nourished the seeds" which would later grow and lead him to speak out against hate crimes throughout America.

*"There is no such thing
as a nonviolent civil
rights crime. There are a
lot of ways you can kill
people. You can kill
them with weapons
and you can kill them
with words."*

Johnston claimed that *dignity* is what is stolen from the victims of hate crimes, and he is appalled that instances of hatred and violence against one another are becoming increasingly more of the norm in the United States. Furthermore, he stressed how our society minimizes outbreaks of hatred that happen every day.

"When a swastika is painted on a church, it's called graffiti. When a woman is raped and murdered by her partner, it's called domestic violence." He stated that the majority of these hate crimes are committed by today's youth, especially those between the ages of 18 to 25. In order to help stop the spread of hate, he suggested we attempt the following:

-- **Eliminate racial and sexual slurs** from our vocabulary. And not just words that are spoken aloud, but also those that are used *mentally* in

*"Watch your thoughts;
they become words.
Watch your words;
they become actions.
Watch your actions;
they become habits.
Watch your habits;
they become character.
Watch your character;
it becomes your destiny."*

- O'Shea -

our thoughts and minds.

-- **Stop telling jokes** that are pointed towards a minority group.

-- **Have the moral courage** to tell others to stop using inappropriate words and stop telling inappropriate jokes.

-- **Take responsibility** for the actions of members within your group.

-- **Be sensitive** to the impact of your actions and words because they are perceived differently by different groups.

-- **Set the example** of behavior.

Mr. Johnston insisted that we should combat the haters and cowards of the world by being "tough and mean." But he explained that we should be tough and mean in the ethical sense by demonstrating our moral courage and standing up for what is right.

In closing, Billy Johnston had this to say about his judgment day:

"When I die and reach the pearly gates of heaven, my judge will be everything I am not. My judge will be black, Jewish, and gay. When I get there, she will say to me, 'How'd you treat me, Billy?'"

Farewell to the Class of 2000



Some Advice To Take With You As You Go

by MIDN Lauralee Manges, '01

Our lives in the Navy have taken and will take us to many new and exciting places throughout the world. They were not kidding when they said, "Join the Navy. See the world!" Situations have also brought us together with many new groups of people. Some of us have found ourselves in one company during plebe year, only to be moved to a different one for the remainder of our years here. We have spent summers on ships and with squadrons and platoons where we have formed close ties with those around us, sharing in experiences with each other and making memories that will last a lifetime. When we graduate, we will say goodbye to many of the friends we have made here at the

Academy. We will be forced to break the close ties we have made with each other, or at least stretch them to meet the distances where we will then find ourselves.

When the hustle and bustle of our new lives takes over, it could be easy for us to forget those friends we have left behind, as we enter into the excitement of our new schools and then head off to our ships, squadrons, platoons, or other units. Soon, we will meet new people and form new bonds with those we work for, those we work with, and those who work for us. These new friends will share in our daily lives and share our everyday experiences, and before long, we may begin to forget some of the people with whom we used to share our most memorable moments.

I am writing this article knowing full well that I, too, am guilty of this same thing, and I have also experi-

enced being the one who is left behind. So, for the Class of 2000 and all of us who will soon be far removed from the Academy, as we journey from place to place in our lives, I offer this advice: Try to hold on to the friendships you have made here and will make in the future. Do not forget those who helped you become who you are and who have helped you get to where you are today. Remember the people who pick you up when you fall, because they will not be around forever.

Even though you may have counted the days until graduation ever since plebe year, hopefully, now that it has arrived, you can look back and smile when you think of the memories you have made and the friendships you have formed. It is difficult to hold on to those you leave behind, but not impossible, and someday, you will be glad you made the effort.

Lead with Character



A Firstie Farewell

by Mary Lewis

'Twas the day before Herndon
And all through the Yard,
All the Firsties were packing,
For some it was hard.
Four years of mementos
To pack in their crate,
What to send home to mother,
And "Oh dear!" what to take...
To that first duty station—
A ship or a school—
Should they take their Adidas
And reg P.E. gear?
Their compact disk player,
A mug for their beer?

They'll take many memories,
Some happy, some sad,
As they learned how to cope
With the good and the bad.
The dances at Dahlgren,
The trips to the mall,
Classes at Mitscher
and Chauvenet Hall.
There was football and tennis
And sailing and crew,
Soccer, lacrosse, and basketball too.
Not to mention the drilling,
P-rades and Red Beach,
The sea wall, Tecumseh
And grades out of reach.

There were Sundays at Chapel
And watches to stand,
Room inspections and march-ons
To the beat of the band.
There were friendships so lasting
They'll go on forever,
There were some who got fried,
And some who were never.
Tho' mischief they made
As they counted the days,
While letting off steam
In myriad ways.

They rumbled and reconned
And partied and laughed,
'Tween studies in chemistry,
Physics, and math.
At Maggie's, O'Brien's
And Fuddruckers too:
They spent every dollar,
They spent every "sou."
Many lessons were taught
To provide what they'd need,
As they learned how to follow
And then how to lead.

They say to each other,
"It was tough, it was fun."
"When I got here Plebe Summer,
I wanted to run."
But they've all persevered
From beginning to end:
Some will find greatness,
and some not at all.
But each will be challenged
As destinies call:
For some will go surface,

And some choose Marines,
Nuke power for others—
For "Top Guns," F-14's!

There's a special day dawning,
Precious and dear,
As families arrive
From far and from near
To share in the joy
In each midshipman's heart,
And also the sorrow
As from friends they must part.
There's a spring in their step,
A feel in the air!
So much fun and excitement
Their loved ones will share.
One goal accomplished,
But not all, it seems,
As they look to their future
And reach for their dreams.

To Bancroft Hall
They may never return,
Although for her refuge
They may someday yearn,
As they enter the Fleet
With certain elan,
To begin their search
For life's ultimate plan.
The road may be rocky,
The way never sure:
They'll reflect on their days here
With memories pure,
To sustain them through everything
Life may unfold,
They will always remember
The Blue and the Gold!

Codes, Concepts, and Pastries: The 2000 Federal Service Academy Honor Conference

by MIDN Tom Cunningham, '01

I loosened my belt buckle to make room for the four donuts I had recently devoured. These were good donuts, martyrs sacrificed for a higher cause. They had entered my mouth bravely and without hesitation. As an aspiring Marine, it worried me how much rubbing elbows with our Academy contemporaries involved sitting and eating! This did not stop team Navy, however, as we ate our fair share of pastries, nachos, chips, pizza, and jalapeno poppers for the sake of the mission..

The 2000 Federal Service Academy Honor Conference was in full swing. Assembled for four busy days were the Honor Staffs for the Military, Air Force, Coast Guard, Merchant Marine, and Naval Academies along with their officer representatives. The purpose of the conference was to present, compare, and discuss the respective honor systems of the service academies. The conference was formally held during the day in Smoke Hall, where there were group workshops, discussion panels, presentations (yes, Power Point) and lots of munchies. The real conference, however, was held in the evening within the hallowed walls of Griffin's in downtown Annapolis, where spirited cadets and midshipmen debated issues and concerns regarding our common, service-unifying tie - Honor.

As conversations grew more interesting with time, the Naval Academy's 2000-2001 Honor Staff paid attention and learned valuable lessons from the cadets and midshipmen who



Midshipman 2/C James Hoey rapels high above inside Halsey Fieldhouse. Mids and cadets from all Service Academies enjoyed the rappelling exercise during this year's Honor Conference.

were becoming our friends. Some things we learned were unexpected. For instance:

-Honor Concepts outnumber Honor Codes. That's right. Only Army and Air Force have Codes. Coast Guard and Merchant Marine both have Concepts, although theirs differs quite a bit from ours.

"Friendships were made, ideas shared, and in the end we had gained an appreciation for our system here at the Academy."

-What is a "Code" anyway? Codes include "non-tolerance" clauses, such as "A Cadet does not lie, steal, or cheat nor tolerate those who do." This means that if you witness an honor violation and do not report it, you are guilty of an honor offense yourself. At Navy, it is a major conduct offense to not report.

-The level of officer involvement varies among the Academies. At West Point, home of the oldest of our honor systems, there are problems with

the amount of officer intervention. Legal and administration officers are active in every level of the process, including honor boards. Dishonorable behavior may go unpunished due to legal technicalities. The end result is cynicism and a questioning of "who owns the honor system."

-Merchant Marine: not reporting is an option. The other end of the extreme is at the Merchant Marine Academy, where if you witness a violation, you do not have to act. There, honor is viewed as a personal responsibility to yourself and others. Do people still get reported? Yes. Do people still get separated for dishonorable behavior? Yes. But...

-Remediation is an option at every Academy. The days of instantaneous, shameful separation of a guilty verdict are disappearing. More and more, the trend is that "everybody makes mistakes" and that people can learn what it means to live a dignified life. The main concern was the abuse of this privilege, and everyone agreed that remediation must remain an option granted only to those who are truly remorseful for their mistakes.

-No two Academies have similar processes. At Coast Guard, there is only a Chairman and an Honor Company that does the educating and investigating. There is no difference between Honor and Conduct boards...the same people sit on both. At other Academies, underclassmen are active members of the Honor Staff. Coast Guard, Army, and Air Force all have First and Second Class on their staffs. Merchant Marine even has Third Class as permanent members.

-Problems are universal. Cynicism. It occurs everywhere. We concluded that cynicism exists for a reason. Criticism keeps the Corps, Wing, or Brigade from becoming mindlessly comfortable and complacent to the status quo. To some degree cynicism is even desirable because it provides a constant incentive to improve. However, it may become a serious problem when it bleeds into the personal honor of midshipmen and cadets. There are those who view honor as just another facet of "the Man", not as an element of their own character. How to address this mindset effectively and in a straightforward manner was the dominant focus of our discussions throughout the entire conference.

The 2000 Federal Service Academy Honor Conference came to a close after four in-depth days of discussion and debate. We had shared much and eaten more. Friendships were made, ideas shared, and in the end we had gained an appreciation for our system here at the Naval Academy. It was extremely worthwhile, and should result in a more receptive and effective Honor Staff for the 2000-2001 academic year.

Now if you would please excuse me, I'm off to the repair tailor shop to let out my trousers...

The Meaning of the Honor Concept

By MIDN James Demitrack, '00

The Honor Concept of the Brigade of Midshipmen states that midshipmen do not lie, cheat, or steal. This simple idea is meant to form the foundation for a life lived with character. However, some may wonder what is so special about these three particular tenets. Are they merely examples that have been chosen at random from a broad selection of moral rules, or is there something that these three norms have in common that makes them more fundamental than others?

"A person lies because he is uncomfortable with the truth about himself."

The common property that the acts of lying, cheating, and stealing possess is the fact that one does each in order to conceal one's true character from others. A person lies because he is uncomfortable with the truth about himself. One cheats because a fair appraisal of her performance would be unsatisfactory. One steals because he wants a possession that he did not, in fact, earn.

Of course, in recent years, the Brigade has developed an Honor Concept that focuses more on the positive aspects of Honor instead of merely listing commandments to be broken. For instance, a midshipman may be charged with an honor offense for lying. To standardize the process by which this may occur, a specific, legalistic definition of lying is written into the Honor Concept. However, midshipmen are also reminded that the

"The best index to a person's character is how he treats people who can't do him any good, and how he treats people who can't fight back."

- Abigail Van Buren -

spirit behind this rule is that midshipmen "tell the truth and ensure that the full truth is known." Similarly, midshipmen do not cheat because they "embrace fairness in all actions," and they do not steal because they "respect the property of others."

Just as lying, cheating, and stealing are acts whereby one attempts to conceal one's true character from others, one who tells the truth, embraces fairness, and respects the property of others ensures that he is perceived as he really is, not as he wants to appear. If a person is under the illusion that he can successfully deceive those around him about the true nature of his character, he will feel less pressure to reflect on the type of person he really is and make necessary changes. This will retard the person's growth in all areas, but especially in character, where flaws are felt most painfully.

By living according to the values articulated by the spirit of the Honor Concept, a midshipman loses his illusions and is forced to come to grips with the innermost levels of himself. This is the first step towards the gradual, challenging, and very fulfilling process of living a life of character.

"I look to a day when people will not be judged by the color of their skin, but by the content of their character."

- Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. -

"When men speak ill of thee, live so as nobody may believe them."

- Plato -

Developing Dignity and Respect

by Pritha Mahadevan, '02

On an average day at the Naval Academy, a midshipman will go through a draining series of obligations to include formations, drill, training, briefs, sports, class, and study hour. Despite all these demands, the most important mission at USNA is the moral development of midshipmen. During formal sessions entitled Character Development Seminars (CDS), midshipmen are afforded an opportunity to develop their moral and ethical reasoning through an exchange of their ideas and opinions about current topics and issues within a small group discussion.

The CDS session in March dealt with the issue of Human Dignity and Respect. When Captain Locklear, the Commandant of Midshipmen, came onboard in December 1999, he made it clear that the degradation of an individual's human spirit would not be tolerated. In my own small group discussion, we focused on the issues of gender. As a female midshipman, many of the case studies detailing instances of disrespect towards females in

Bancroft Hall that were presented in the CDS reading were examples I had either witnessed or personally experienced. CDS lasts only an hour, and the limited time allows for discussion but little resolution of differences.

I brought the issues back to my room in the Hall, and I gave them all a great deal of thought. Human spirit is what makes each one of us feel that our life has meaning, and we must value each other's dignity. However, respecting human dignity goes much further than just minding the feelings of a shipmate. I believe that respecting the human spirit starts within one's own being, and one has to have the strongest sense of self-esteem. Most of the degrading comments made in life are a reflection of another individual's insecurities and shortcomings.

To solve this issue of mean spiritedness that has in many ways taken root in Bancroft Hall, we as a Brigade need to find value in ourselves. We each have immense control over our attitude and actions. If we remain strong in the face of offensive behavior, the offender will look all the more foolish. Once we commit to respecting ourselves and observing our strengths and weaknesses, the compulsion to cut other people down will become

unnecessary.

The modern officer, and for that matter, the modern day midshipman, faces many demands unique to present day social conditions. However, the basic tenants of outstanding leadership remain as constant as ever:

"It is by no means enough that an officer of the Navy should be a capable mariner. He must be that, of course, but also a great deal more. He should be as well a gentleman of liberal education, refined manners, punctilious courtesy, and the nicest sense of personal honor."

The Character Quarterly Staff:

Editors

MIDN 2/C Lauralee Manges
MIDN 2/C Frank Magallon

Writers

MIDN 2/C Andrew Crawford
MIDN 2/C John March
MIDN 3/C Pritha Mahadevan
MIDN 3/C Hannah Martin
MIDN 3/C Alpa Patel
MIDN 3/C Brian Ray

Officer Representatives

CDR Liz Sternaman, '80
LT Steve Milewski, '95



Character Development Division
US Naval Academy, Stop 2D
103 Fullam Ct
Annapolis, MD 21402-5005

We welcome any articles
or ideas you may have to
contribute to the
Character Quarterly.
Please contact LT Milewski at:

phone: (410) 293-1922
or DSN 281-1922

email:
milewski@nadn.navy.mil